

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Morris Farm House Inventory Number: CAR-255  
Address: 13850 Cherry Lane Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Ridgely Zip Code: 21657 County: Caroline  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Ridgely  
Property Owner: State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Tax Account ID Number: 010494  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 23 Tax Map Number: 13  
Project: DNR Historic Documentation of Razings Agency: Maryland's Department of Natural Resources  
Agency Prepared By: Historic Preservation Consultant  
Preparer's Name: Catherine Masek Date Prepared: 1/26/2009  
Documentation is presented in: MIHP form for Morris Farm House, CAR-255, by Bridget Deale, 1979. MIHP form for Morris Farm House, CAR-255, by Catherine Adams Masek, 2009.  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification:** *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Morris Farm House does not appear to meet the standards for eligibility for nomination to the National Register.

**Criterion A:**

No evidence has been uncovered that would indicate this site has significance because it is associated with an event or broad pattern of our history, as required of Criterion A. While the farm does have association with late 19th century agricultural practices, the many historic structures of agricultural use that once existed on the property have been razed. There is no known local historical event, business or industry that the Starkey family were associated with. The property has been associated with public recreation and the Tuckahoe State Park since 1974, and so an insufficient amount of time to have made any impact. Furthermore, having been used as a rental property by the Department of Natural Resources, the Morris House has not been used for an educational or recreation-related purpose under State ownership.

**Criterion B:**

No person of significance is associated with the Morris Farm House. After completing research, it is known that John E. Starkey, owner 1848-1883, amassed a large contiguous tract of land of approximately 800 acres during his lifetime, but no significant impact or contributions at local or county level have been uncovered. Thomas Starkey, his son, owner 1885-1942, was known as

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

**MHT Comments:**

Jonathan Sager  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntz  
Reviewer, National Register Program

2/12/09  
Date

2/12/09  
Date

200900262

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Morris Farm House

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a farmer, but no other facts about his life are known at this time. Morris, owner 1942-1974, while a carpenter associated with Glenn L. Martin, Baltimore, is not known to have made significant contributions to either Baltimore or to the Ridgely area.

## Criterion C:

This site contains a principal residence erected c. 1875-1925, in its original location and on original foundation. However, there have been architecturally unsympathetic changes to the house that have included: demolition and removal of gable end chimneys and interior mantels, interior overall insertion of artificial wall materials including Z-brick and wood veneer paneling, removal and replacement of all but three interior doors with plain hollow core doors, replacement of exterior doors, second floor plan changes, addition of vinyl windows, bathroom and kitchen renovations, exterior aluminum siding application and front porch replacement, well installation. The building is in fair condition, vacant since 2001, but deterioration is noted on the rear façade of the kitchen wing. Furthermore, the eight historic outbuildings that once lined the entry drive and were of agricultural usage no longer exist. These had included: granary, corncrib, tenant house, implement shed, privy, stable, smokehouse, cow barn. The three existing outbuildings date early- mid 20th century and are insignificant. They stand open and exposed to weathering, deteriorated and in a state of collapse.

In conclusion, there is insufficient evidence to consider the Morris Farm House property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### CAPSULE SUMMARY

Morris Farm House

MIHP #CAR-255

13850 Cherry Lane

Ridgely, Caroline County

c. 1875-1925

Public- within the Tuckahoe State Park

The Morris House property is located near the wooded marshlands of the Tuckahoe Creek, within the Tuckahoe State Park. Located in the northwestern quadrant of Caroline County, the park is linear in shape and follows the Tuckahoe Creek in a north-south direction. The house is located on Cherry Lane, which is the eastern border of the park. A largely agricultural and rural area, the property is five miles northwest of the town of Ridgely. Approaching the park from Rte 304, Centreville- Ruthsburg Road, one turns south onto Rte 481, Ruthsburg Road, and enters the park on Crouse Mill Road. One crosses the Tuckahoe Creek, and marshlands, and turns north or left onto Cherry Lane. There are campgrounds and park lands located on the west side, while small farms line the east side of the flat, narrow, paved Cherry Lane. The white aluminum sided two storied L-shaped farmhouse built c. 1875-1925, is accessed via a narrow unimproved entry lane. A "street" of approximately nine outbuildings, historically of agricultural use, once lined this entry lane. Vacated by the State's last tenant in 2001, the house is in fair condition and the three standing outbuildings, which date to the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, are deteriorated/ in a state of collapse. The approximately one hundred three acre lot was conveyed to the State's Department of Natural Resources in 1974.

The asphalt gable roofed, two story, frame house with brick foundation has a shed roofed, one story, frame addition of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century located on the inside of the L. Simple in design, the house does display historic sash windows and decorative original fishscale shingles at attic level on all facades. During the mid twentieth century, electricity and indoor plumbing were added, interior alteration occurred. The following changes have occurred at the property which negatively affect the architectural integrity: demolition and removal of gable end chimneys and interior mantels, second floor plan changes, interior overall application of artificial wall materials including Z-brick and wood veneer paneling, removal and replacement of all but three interior doors, replacement of exterior doors, addition of vinyl windows, bathroom and kitchen renovations, exterior aluminum siding application, front porch replacement, well installation, and demolition of all historic agricultural structures.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CAR-255

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Starkey Farm House

other Morris Farm House

### 2. Location

street and number 13850 Cherry Lane not for publication

city, town Ridgely vicinity

county Caroline

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources

street and number 580 Taylor Avenue, Tawes State Office Bldg D-3 telephone 410-260-8932

city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caroline County Courthouse liber 187 folio 38

city, town Denton tax map 13 tax parcel 23 tax ID number 010494

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	2
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			5

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CAR-255

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

### Summary:

The Morris Farm House is located on the northwest side of Cherry Lane, northwest of the town of Ridgely, Caroline County, within the Tuckahoe State Park. The farm is located approximately 500 feet south of Tuckahoe Creek on a parcel of land that includes both low marshlands and flat tilled fields. Historically part of the "Bradley or Branch farm", the Morris farm has a straight unimproved lane accessed via the narrow paved Cherry Lane. Along this entry lane there were eight structures in the 1920-30's, none of which currently exist other than the house. Three early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century frame outbuildings do exist north and west of the house.

The three bay L-shaped cross gabled frame two story house with one story frame open porch is located north of the entry drive. Sheet metal simulating stone covers a brick foundation and horizontal aluminum siding covers horizontal wood siding on the exterior walls. Fishscale shingle exists only at the attic level, on all facades.

### Comprehensive description:

The three bay two story frame house with asphalt shingle roof, metal gutters and downspouts, was built c. 1875-1925 with alterations through c. 1990, faces southeast towards Cherry Lane. Vinyl triple track storm windows cover double hung sash that is configured as two over one and three over one divided sash. A one story porch spanning the width of the front gable roofed portion was rebuilt in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1979 MIHP describes an porch that existed in this location as "screened porch with turned supports, brackets and pentels." An inaccessible basement/ crawl space is accessed via an exterior entry on the rear façade. There are no basement windows. A single flue exists on the rear kitchen wing, while chimneys existed at either end of the front gable roofed section in 1979. Exterior doors were replaced in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century except that door on the front façade. A shed roofed one story mid- late 20<sup>th</sup> century section is located on the inside of the L.

On the front (east) façade, first floor, there are paired three/ one double hung sash on either side of a front door. Centered above each of these three bays is a single two/ one double hung sash on the second story. An unaltered two/ two double hung sash pointed window is located at attic level in the central bay. Wooden fishscale shingle surrounds this attic level window, recent metal gutters and downspouts hang from the steeply pitched gable roofline. A deep overhang is evident at attic level, while a shallower soffit / overhang is evident at second story roofline.

The side (south) façade, which is about 8 feet from the entry driveway, forms the outside wall of the L-shaped plan. The windows in the south gable end of the front section are off center, to allow for the chimney to be in the center of the wall. There is one 3/1 window on first floor and a 2/2 window on second floor. Fish scale shingle exists in the gable above that. The rear gable roofed kitchen wing is attached to the front section and is two storied, terminating in a brick chimney at its northernmost end. On the south façade of this kitchen wing are a three/ one double hung sash and a two/ two double hung sash windows at first floor level, while there is a two/ two double hung sash at second story level.

On the rear (west) façade is the gable end of the kitchen wing. A recently replaced door is located in the southernmost bay with a two over two double hung sash window above it. The basement/ crawl space is accessed via an exterior opening north of the door.

On the north façade is access into the house via the one story shed roofed bathroom wing. A recently replaced door enters the wing at grade and a 1/1 window is located in the bathroom to the west of the door. On the second story of this façade in the kitchen wing is a two/ two double hung sash window. Also in the center of the L-shaped house are two windows, located north of the first floor exterior side entry. A 3/1 double hung sash window is on the first floor and a 2/2 hung sash is at second story level. There are two windows in the north façade, which mirror those in the south façade of the front gable end section of the house. While those windows in the south façade are west of the chimney location, the windows in the north façade are located east of the chimney location. Fish scale shingles exist in the attic level, north gable end, mirroring those on the south gable end.



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One enters the house via the main entry in the center bay on the front (east) façade. The doorway features a wooden door with single clear glass pane in the upper half and three horizontal panels in the lower half. Inside, one is standing in the original parlor. There is a straight run wooden staircase with simply turned newel post and balusters located on the west wall. Below the staircase/ carriage, the triangularly shaped woodwork panel is covered with painted thin wood paneling. Immediately east of the staircase and free standing in the room are two columns and a beam running north to south, seemingly inserted for structural stability. "Z"- brick, a thin veneer brick, covers the north fireplace wall, including the original mantel location.

A simply decorated wall, pierced by three openings, separates the parlor from the dining room. The wall features a center doorway with flanking half walls. On the south wall is a thin veneer like paneling flanking a brick flue, where originally a mantel and fireplace had been located. A door in the west wall of the dining room leads to the kitchen, which was completely renovated in 1996. A flue in the west wall of the kitchen is enclosed on the interior. The exterior rear door in the kitchen's west wall was replaced in 1996. Three original interior wood 4 panel doors exist inside the house- one is located in the dining room at a closet and another is between the kitchen and the bathroom. The bathroom, located north of the kitchen in the shed roofed addition, is a 1996 replacement, including piping and plumbing. A new exterior well was added at the same time. A utility or mud room, with washer /dryer stands east of the bathroom in the shed roofed addition. An original exterior window in the kitchen is evident in this mud room. The sash has been infilled, but frame remains.

On the second floor, there is Z-brick, a thin veneer brick, covering the north and south fireplace walls and thin wood veneer paneling covering all other interior walls. Modern walls covered with thin wood veneer paneling have been inserted on the second floor to create a small hall at the top of the stairs. Modern closets with sliding hollow wood doors exist in the north bedroom and in the master bedroom over the kitchen. One historic door exists on the second floor and it is located between the front south bedroom and the rear master bedroom. The west chimney flue rises in the closet of the master bedroom. All of the walls in the master bed room and its closet are covered in thin wood veneer paneling. No attic access was apparent.

The current vertically sided frame outbuildings consist of a one bay frame garage, an animal shed and a storage building. The garage, which is completely covered in vegetation, is located southwest of the house. In the gable roofed entry façade there is no door. Roofing on the south side has collapsed to the interior. This early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century structure has a small window on the west façade. The early- mid 20<sup>th</sup> century vertically sided wood animal shed is located west of the garage and the house. Its roof consists solely of rafters, and the remainder has collapsed to the interior. There is an open doorway located in the west gable wall. Window openings are located in the north and south walls. No door or window sashes exist. Inside, there is a concrete foundation evident beneath all walls and a concrete trough located on the north wall. Wall and roofing materials are collapsing into the interior. A vertically sided wooden storage shed with doorway on its east gable end is located immediately west of the house. This mid- late 20<sup>th</sup> century storage structure, lacking door, has a raised floor and its condition is better than other outbuildings. The four foot tall grasses growing on all sides of the house and around existing outbuildings limit the ability to seek foundations or remnants of earlier structures. Historic structures of agricultural use did exist. The following outbuildings had been located along the entry lane of the Morris farm, but no longer exist: Immediately opposite/ south of the house was a 40' x 30' two story cow barn with loft. There was a stable/ wagon shed west of this cow barn. On the north side of the entry drive, going west from the house was located a privy, smokehouse, and water trough. West of these structures was an implement shed. West of the implement shed was a 20 x 20' two story granary, a corncrib and a tenant house. The tenant house has been described as two stories; three bays with center door in south façade, clapboard covered exterior walls and with cream colored exterior paint. (Bill Cooper, longtime neighbor, 12/08 telephone interview) See historical site plan attached herein.

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The condition of the house was recorded as "good" when visited in 1979; however, its condition is currently "fair." The rear kitchen wing is in the poorest condition, where vegetation and water has begun to infiltrate the west wall. Outbuildings, especially the animal shed and garage are in a state of collapse, and stand open to the weather.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

### Specific dates

### Architect/Builder

Construction dates c. 1875-1925

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

### Summary:

The Morris House, while altered through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, stands as a simple L-shaped late 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse in its original location, but without its historic surrounding agricultural structures intact. Historically, the house probably dates to c. 1885, when the 126 acre parcel was conveyed to Thomas B. Starkey, as the result of the division of lands of his father, John E. Starkey. Utilized as a working farm by both the Starkey and Morris families, the property was used as a rental for the last 25 years by the State of Maryland. Indoor plumbing and electricity was added by the Morris family. Some changes/alterations probably occurred to interior woodwork and outbuildings. Other changes to the property occurred after it was conveyed to the State of Maryland. Significant alterations have included: removal of front chimneys and mantels, interior door and room plan changes, interior wall surface changes, bathroom and kitchen renovations, exterior aluminum siding application, front porch replacement, exterior door replacements and vinyl window additions, demolition of agricultural structures.

### Narrative:

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century Morris House may have been constructed as early as 1875, in accordance with the State of Maryland's Department of Assessments and Taxation form, but most likely would have dated to c. 1885, when Thomas B. Starkey acquired the property. (Caroline County Commission Book 1, Liber JHF No. E, Folio 298-317)

John E. Starkey, father of Thomas, became heir to seven parcels of land in 1856 from John Bradley, via Abraham Jump. Totalling about 960 acres, these lands appears to have been located in that geographic area between Bradleysburg /Hillsboro area and Bridgetown and between Tuckahoe Creek (in both Caroline and Queen Annes Counties) and Purnells Shop. See attached photocopy of 1873 map of Caroline, Queen Anne and Talbot Counties. The parcels have been described as follows: "a parcel of land on the main road leading from Jumptown to Turner's Mill, called the Bradley Farm, composed of parts of "Colne Rectified" on Piney Branch, containing 100 a.- also "New Buckby," 100 a.- also part of "Godfrey's Folly containing 33 ac.- also part of "New Nottingham Rectified," 17 a.- also part of "Cow Range" on the south side of an old millpond called Wooters' 16 a.- also part of "New Nottingham Rectified," adjoining David Kennedy's part and part formerly belonging to John Bradley, Sr., containing 27 ¾ a.- also part of "Godfrey's Folly" on the east side of Tuckahoe Creek and adjoining the mill seat commonly known as Rickett's Mill and also near an old mill called Wooters' Mill- adjoining "New Buckby" on the south side of a branch of Wooters' Millpond, purchase by John Bradley, deceased, of John Due; Samuel Pritchett and Serena A. Pritchett, heirs of James Due, deceased, containing 10 acres- which all constitute the Bradley farm, conveyed to Abraham Jump, deceased, by Zabadiel Potter, Trustee for the sale of the real estate of John Bradley, deceased, 11 May 1844..." (Caroline County Land Record Book 24, Vol. CC, 1855-1858, p. 40, compiled by Bernice Leonard) Starkey added to these parcels, his acquisitions, recorded in the Land Records of Caroline County, date primarily from the 1840-1850's. (Deed, Liber JHT, X, Folio 226, 1848)

John Starkey had two wives and eight children. His first wife, Cathalinda (also spelled "Ethelinda") Barcus, who he married in 1838 in Queen Anne's County, was the daughter of a successful miller associated with the Crouse's Mill. (Chesapeake Cousins, Vol. 17, No. 1, p. 36- Ancestor chart) Her mother, member of the Turner family who owned the



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Turner's Mill mentioned above, also was a miller. Ethelinda died in 1868. (Caroline County Marriage/Death/Birth Records, 1850-1880, by Edward Wright, p. 10, Newspaper abstracts) He married a second time at age 46, six months after Ethelinda's death, in 1869, to the widow, Mary E. Mullikin, age 40. At that time, he was described as a "farmer" and Mary was described as a "housekeeper." (Caroline County Marriage Licenses 1865-1886), compiled by Dorothy H. Baird and Louise A. Scott, p. 100) Starkey continued to be listed as a farmer in 1878, when a list of merchants and farmers was compiled. (Chesapeake Cousins, Vo. 18, No. 2, Caroline County Merchants and Farmers, 1878, p. 31 & 34) Suffering marriage difficulties, there is recorded a document describing alimony and a land conveyance to Mary E. Starkey dated 1876. (Cont., Liber JWT 37, Folio 385)

Starkey was also a slaveholder. In 1855, "a Negro woman Amanda" was conveyed for \$150.00 to John Sangstron for a period of 7 years. "Her issue to be slaves for life." (Caroline County Record Book 24, Vol. CC 1855-1858 compiled by R. Bernice Leonard, p. 40) There is also a recorded "Bill of Sale" for a "Negro boy" costing \$200.00 in 1859. (B of S, Liber RJ 29, Folio 155)

At the death of John Starkey in 1883, his lands were called the "Bradley Farm" and these were divided among his eight heirs. After the completion of a survey in 1884, which survey is included in the above referenced Commission Book #1, John Starkey's lands were divided and the 126 acre Morris House property was conveyed to John's youngest (20 yr old) child, Thomas B. Starkey in 1885. See photocopies of 1884 survey related to Thomas B. Starkey.

At this time, Caroline County's economy was largely agricultural and rural in nature and the Ridgely area was especially well known for its fields of excellent quality strawberries. With the development of the town of Ridgely, for which a survey is dated 1867, the area began to grow in population. (JOK Walsh, meeting- 10/08) A Maryland Agricultural College, basket factory, several canning factories, and the Armour strawberry plant and poultry farms existed in the Ridgely area by 1920. (Emory Dobson, A History of Caroline County, 1920, p.300-306)

Thomas B. Starkey and his wife, Ida, would have built the L-shaped house and most of the outbuildings/ agricultural structures in the late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thomas (1871-1944) and Ida (1868-1962) are both buried at Greenmount Cemetery, Hillsboro, MD (Beneath These Stones, Cemeteries of Caroline Co., Vol. 11, p. 133) They had one child, John, who died approximately 2007 at age 100. (Cooper, telephone interview, 1-09) So, it would seem likely that Thomas married and had the house principally constructed by c. 1897. No photographs of the outbuildings are known to exist, but would have been constructed under his ownership as well. (See site map showing approximate locations of historic outbuildings based upon verbal descriptions by B. Cooper, 12/08.)

George Morris and his wife, Mary, acquired the 126 acre property in 1942, by which time the house and its agricultural structures would have been completed. (Deed, Liber WAC & DRH 102, Folio 243) Morris was known to have been a carpenter who worked for Glenn L. Martin, Baltimore, and relocated to Caroline County in 1943. He is known to have added the one story shed roofed addition in the center of the L shaped house, in order to house a bathroom. Electricity poles and lines reached Cherry Lane farms in 1946, and this would have been during Morris' ownership as well. (Cooper, 1/09 telephone communication) He also probably replaced the front door at the main entry, made some woodwork changes/ artificial wall applications, added the one car garage, and may have razed some of the agricultural structures.

The property, reduced to approximately 103 acres, was conveyed in 1974 to the State of Maryland. (Deed, Liber 187, Folio 38). It was used as a rental property from approximately 1977 to 2001. There have been architecturally unsympathetic changes to the property that included: demolition and removal of gable end chimneys and interior mantels, interior overall insertion of artificial wall materials including Z-brick and wood veneer paneling, removal and replacement of

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all but three interior doors with plain hollow core doors, second floor plan changes, replacement of exterior doors, addition of vinyl windows, bathroom and kitchen renovations, exterior aluminum siding application and front porch replacement, well installation, demolition of outbuildings. Some of this activity occurred in the 1990's, documented in DNR Annual Lease Inspection sheets. The property, vacant since 2001, has suffered limited vandalism and damage. Windows and the front door have been covered for protection. While the house is, generally, in fair condition, the rear kitchen wing is deteriorating. The outbuildings- particularly, the garage and animal shed, are in a state of collapse. All three standing outbuildings are open and exposed to weathering. The grounds are deteriorated and unkempt.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CAR-255

### Primary Sources include:

Cooper, Bill, longtime resident of Cherry Lane, telephone communications 12/08- 1/09.

Dietrich, Paul, Tuckahoe State Park employee, site visit meeting, 9/08.

Ohler, John, Manager, Tuckahoe State Park, email correspondence 9/08-12/08.

Terebey, Jane. Library Associate, Caroline Co. Public Library, Denton, MD, email & telephone correspondence 1-09.

Walsh, J.O.K., Caroline Co. Historical Society, meeting -10/08, email correspondence- 11-12/08.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .5 ac

Acreage of historical setting .5 ac.

Quadrangle name RidgelyMD Quad

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Cherry Lane is the east boundary line, the treeline south of the garage is the south boundary line, the treeline west of the animal shed is the west boundary line and the landscaped boundry line north of the house is the north boundary line.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Catherine Adams Masek		
organization	Historic Preservation Consultant	date	1/24/09
street & number	124 St. Andrews Road	telephone	410-987-8519
city or town	Severna Park	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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Anne Arundel County Public Libraries:

Dobson, Emory. History of Caroline County, Denton: Regional Publishing Co, 1920, republished 1971.

Website: <MdLandRec.Net>

"Deed," between George W. Morris & Mary A., his wife, and the State of Maryland for the Department of Natural Resources, Liber 187, Folio 38, 1974, 103.137 acres.

"Deed" between Thomas B. Starkey & Ida, his wife, and George W. Morris & Mary, his wife, Liber WAC & DRH 102, Folio 243, 1942, 126 acres.

Caroline County Commission Book 1, Division of the "Bradley farm" (800 acres), lands of John E. Starkey, deceased, 1883, among his 8 heirs. Liber JHF No. E, Folio 298-317, microfilm. Survey dated 12/1884, commission proceedings dated 1885. The Tract #1, 126 acres, included the Morris House property, and was conveyed to youngest (20 yrs old) son, Thomas B. Starkey.

Estate settlement for Abraham Jump, dec'd 1844, Caroline Co. Land Records Books, book 24, Vol. CC, 1855-1858, p. 40.

Maryland State Archives:

Martenet, Walling & Gray. Maps of Caroline, Queen Anne and Talbot Counties, 1873.

Microfilm collection- Caroline County Commission Book 1, 1885 Division of Lands of the deceased John E. Starkey.

Project MORRIS HOUSE, TUCKAHOE S.P.  
CAR-  
Project # 255 Date 12/08 Page \_\_\_\_\_



CAR-255  
Wheeler Goodman Masek  
One Annapolis Street #100  
Annapolis Maryland 21401

V. 410.841.6787  
F. 410.841.5523  
www.wgm-arch.com

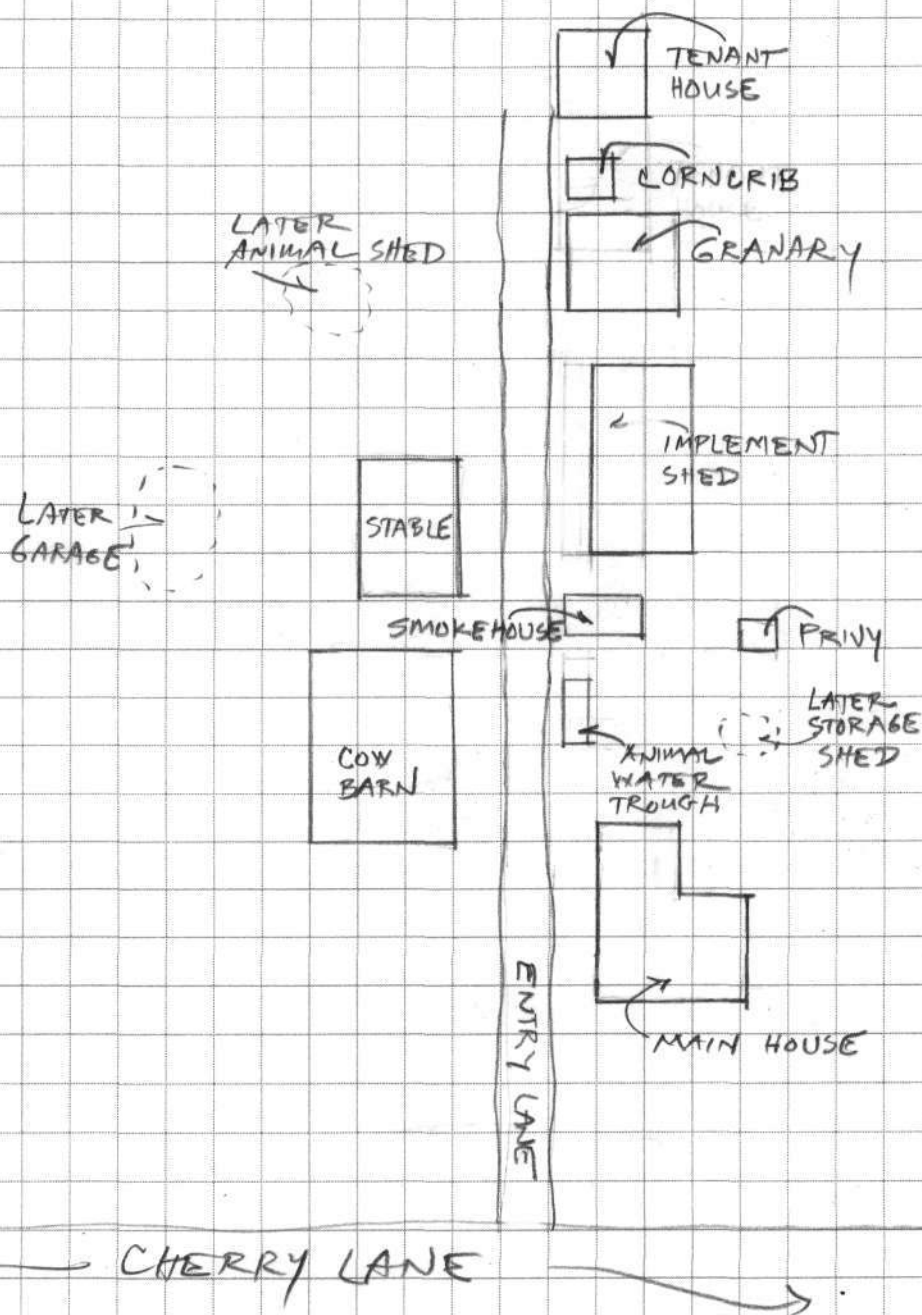
CHERRY LANE, RIDGELY VIC.  
CAROLINE CO.

HISTORICAL SITE PLAN

VERBAL  
(BASED ON DESCRIPTION)

NO SCALE

500'± TO SWAMPLAND  
AROUND TUCKAHOE CREEK





CAR-255

Project MORRIS HOUSE, TUCKAHOE S.P.  
CAR-  
Project # 255 Date 12/08 Page \_\_\_\_\_

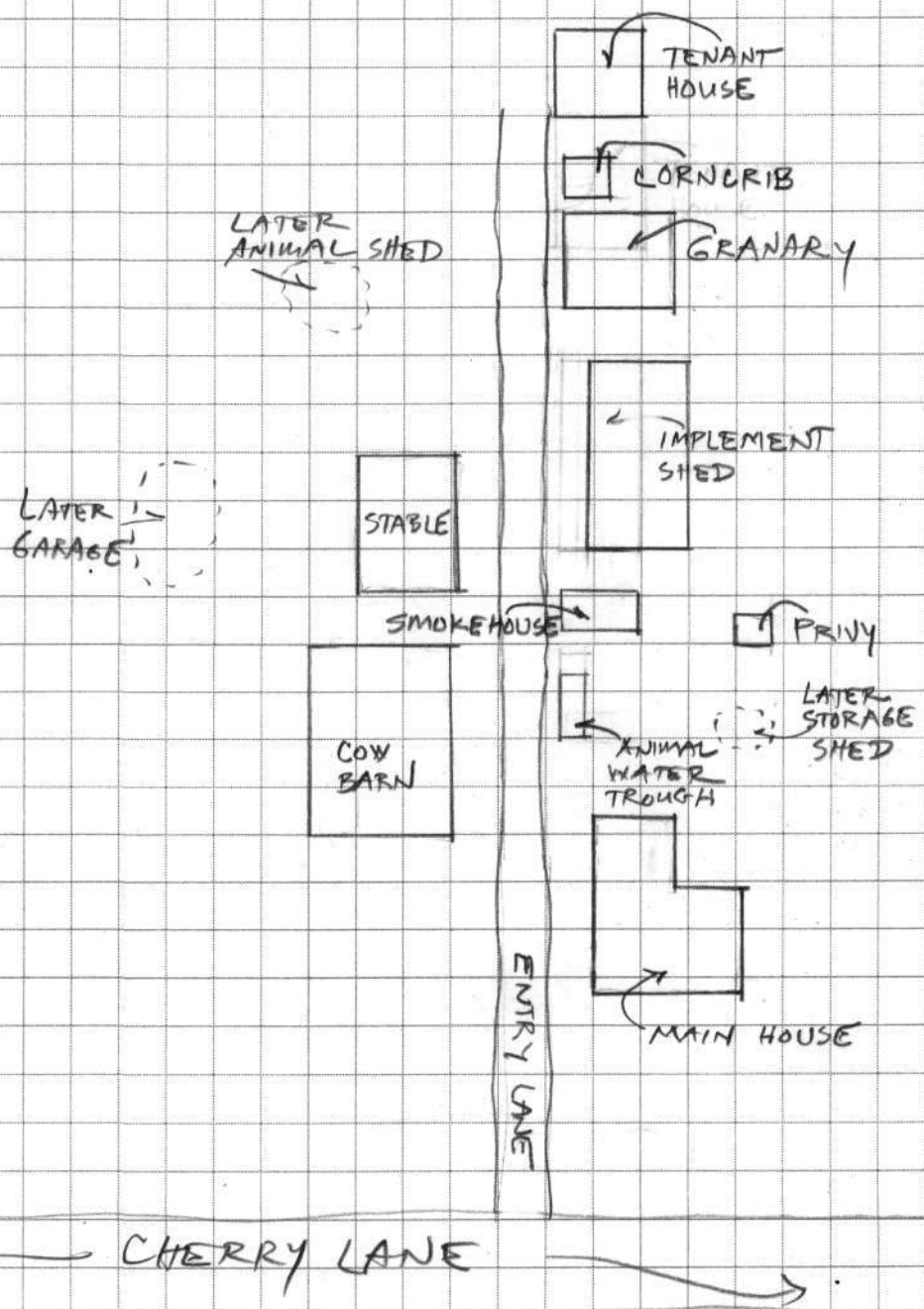


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HISTORICAL SITE PLAN  
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500'± TO SWAMPLAND  
AROUND TUCKAHOE CREEK



CAR-255

Project MORRIS HOUSE, TUCKAHOE S.P.

Project # CAR-255

Date 10/08

Page



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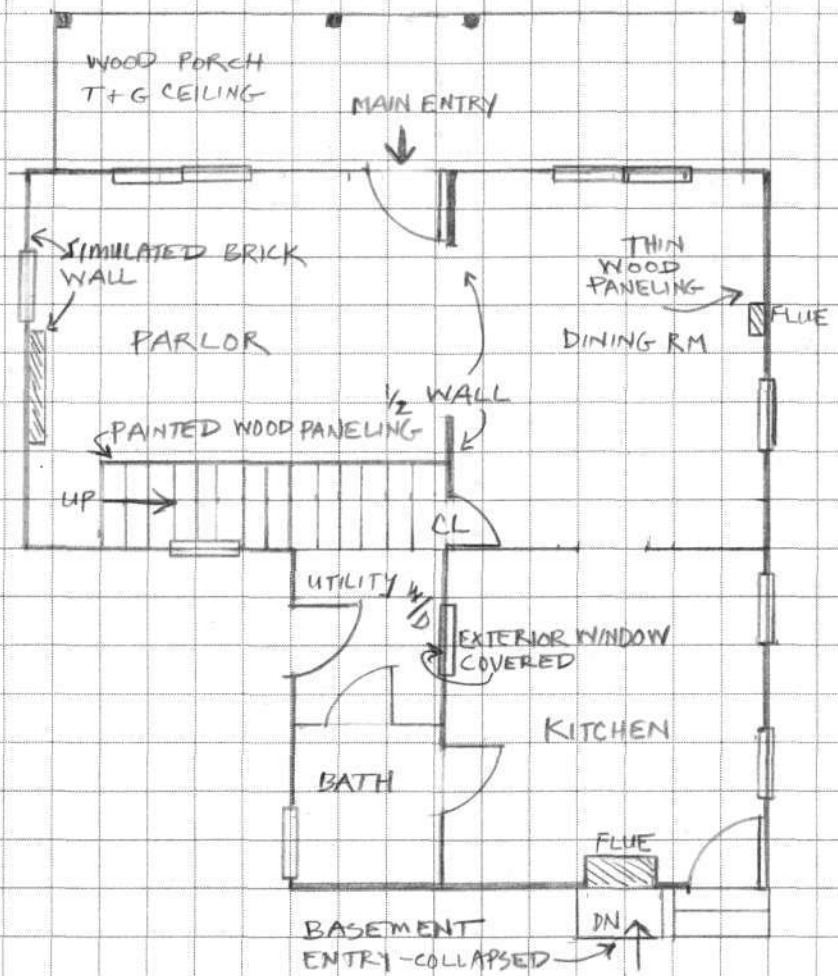
V. 410.841.6787  
F. 410.841.5523  
www.wgm-arch.com

CHERRY LA., RIDGELY VIC., CAROLINE CO.

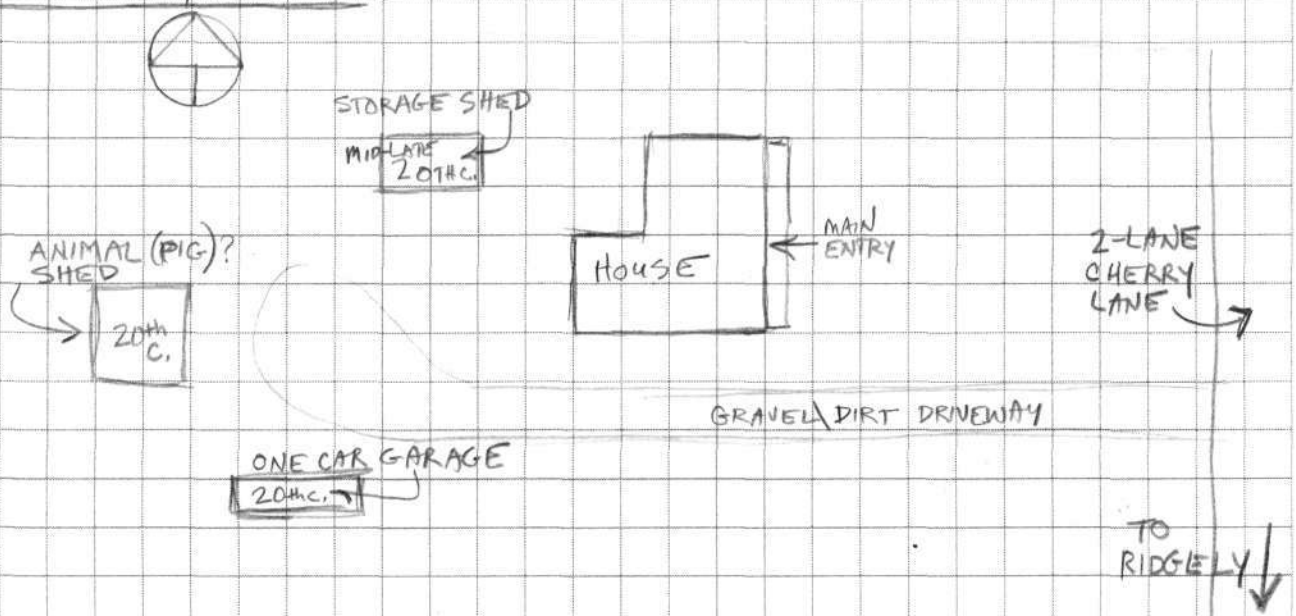
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'

RESOURCE MAP/SITE PLAN - NO SCALE



RESOURCE MAP/SITE PLAN:



Project MORRIS HOUSE, TUCKAHOE S.P.

Project # ~~CAR-~~ 255

Date 10/08

Page



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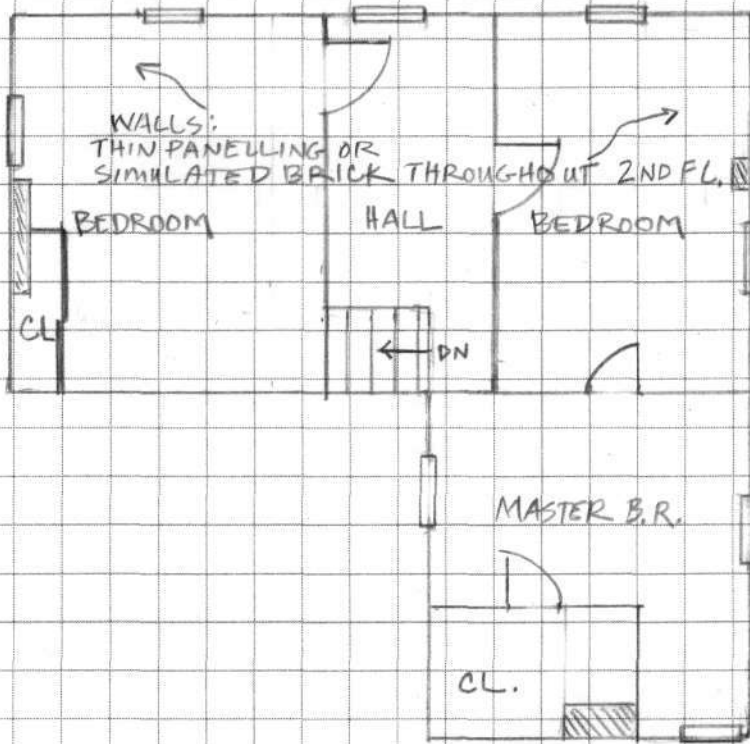
V. 410.841.6787  
F. 410.841.5523  
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CHERRY LA., RIDGELY VIC., CAROLINE CO.

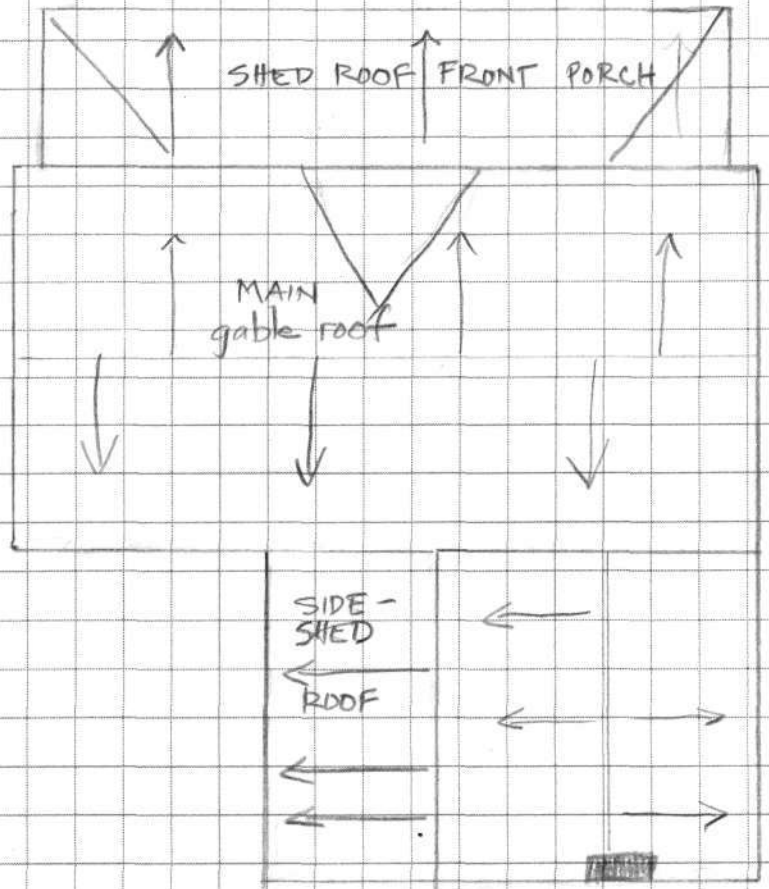
SECOND FL. PLAN

ROOFING PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'



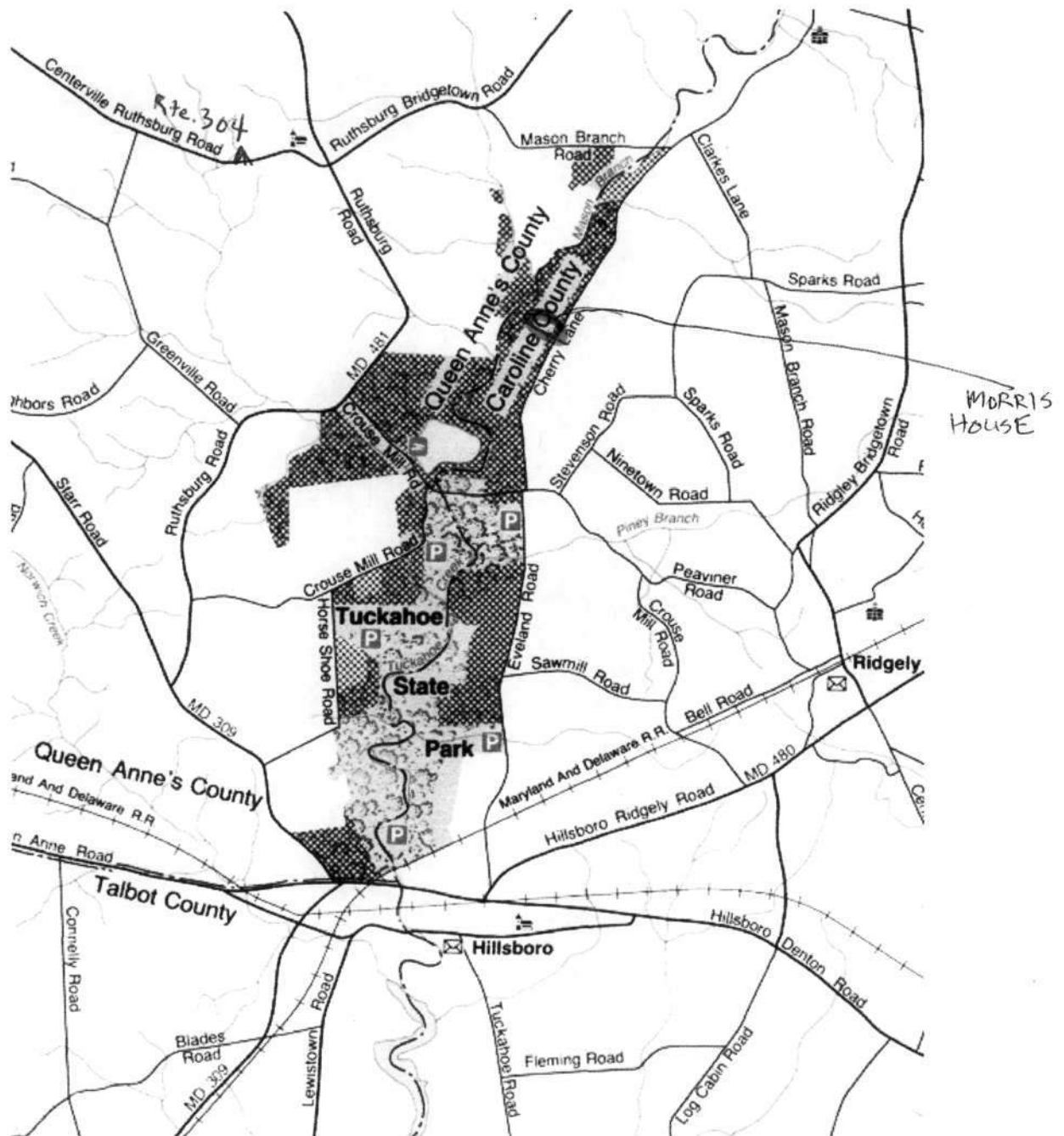
ROOFING PLAN:



CAR-255

MAP OF TUCKAHOE STATE PARK- COURTESY OF MARYLAND'S  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE

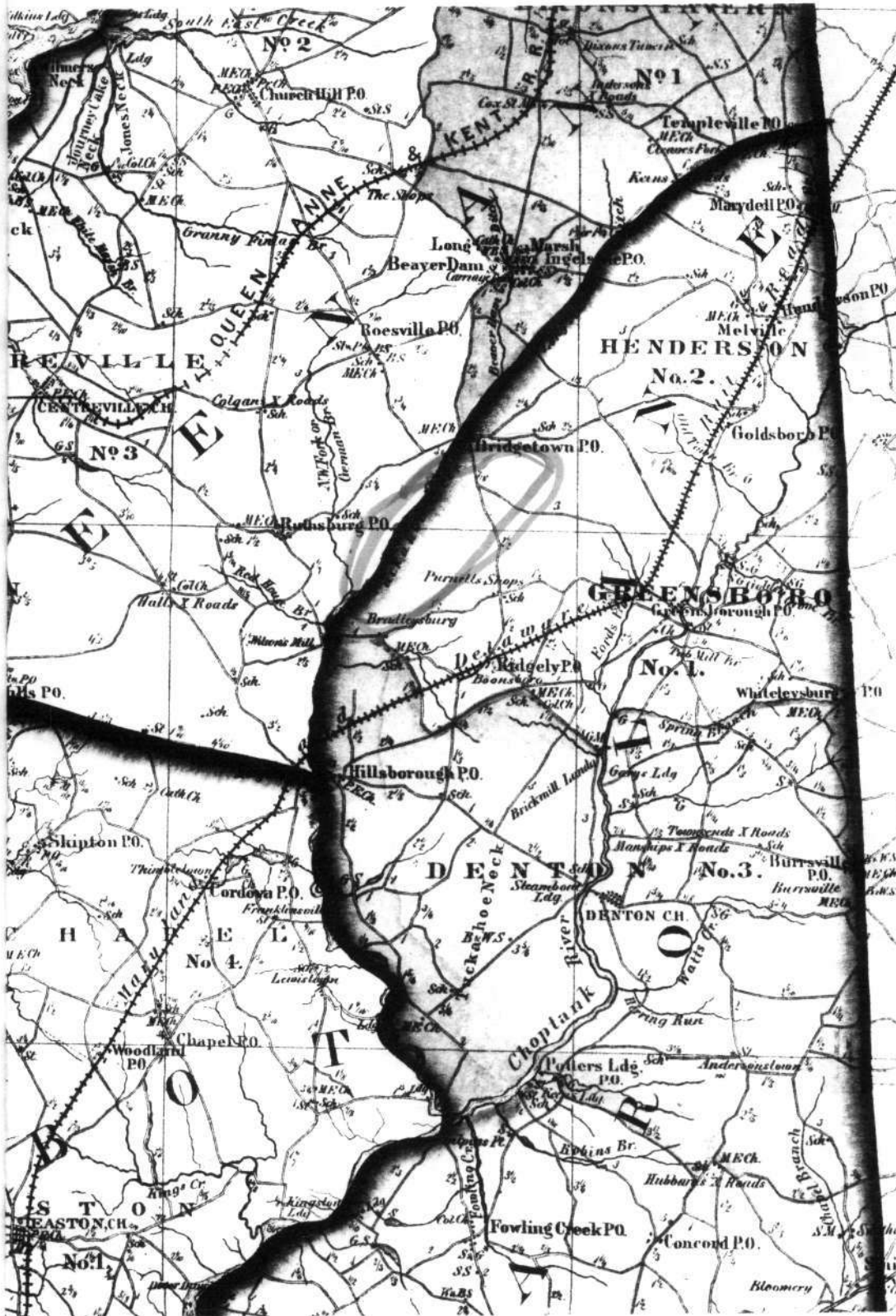
Map 2 of Tuckahoe State Park





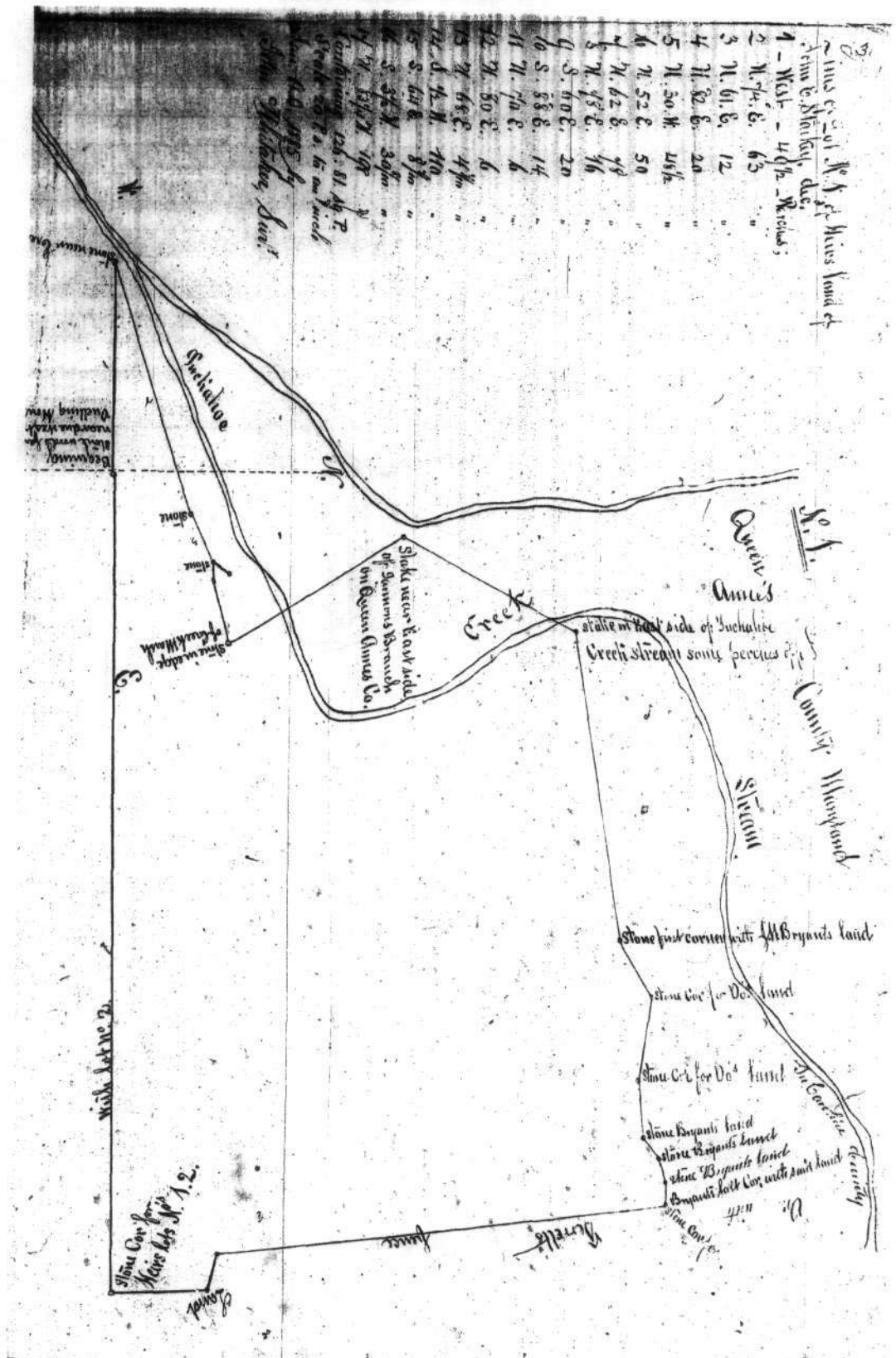
CAR-255

PHOTOCOPY OF 1873 MAP OF CAROLINE, QUEEN ANNES AND TALBOT  
COUNTIES BY MARTENET, WALLING & GRAY.  
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF JOHN E. STARKEY PROPERTY IDENTIFIED.  
COURTESY OF THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES.





LOT #1- CONVEYED TO THOMAS B. STARKEY, MINOR.  
HAND DRAWN SURVEY OF THE LANDS OF JOHN E. STARKEY,  
DECEASED 1883. BY JOHN WHITAKER, SURVEYOR, DECEMBER 3, 1884.  
COURTESY OF CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSION BOOK 1,  
MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES



**LOT #1 1/2 -LOCATED ON MD RTE 287/313, NOT MORRIS HOUSE PROPERTY-  
CONVEYED TO THOMAS B. STARKEY, MINOR. HAND DRAWN SURVEY OF  
LANDS OF JOHN E. STARKEY, DECEASED 1883. BY JOHN WHITAKER  
SURVEYOR, DECEMBER 3, 1884. COURTESY OF CAROLINE COUNTY  
COMMISSION BOOK 1, MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES.**



CAR-255

MORRIS HOUSE

RIDGELY VIC., CAROLINE CO.

CHERRY LANE

TUCKAHOE S.P.

C. A. MASEK

9/08

MD SHPO

FRONT (EAST) FACADE, SITE

1 OF 6





CAR-255

MORRIS HOUSE

RIDGELY VIC., CAROLINE CO.

CHERRY LANE

TUCKAHOE S.P.

C. A. MASEK

9/08

MD SHPO

FRONT (EAST) FACADE-HOUSE

2 OF 6



CAR-255

MORRIS HOUSE

RIDGELY VIC., CAROLINE CO.

CHERRY LANE

TUCKAHOE S.P.

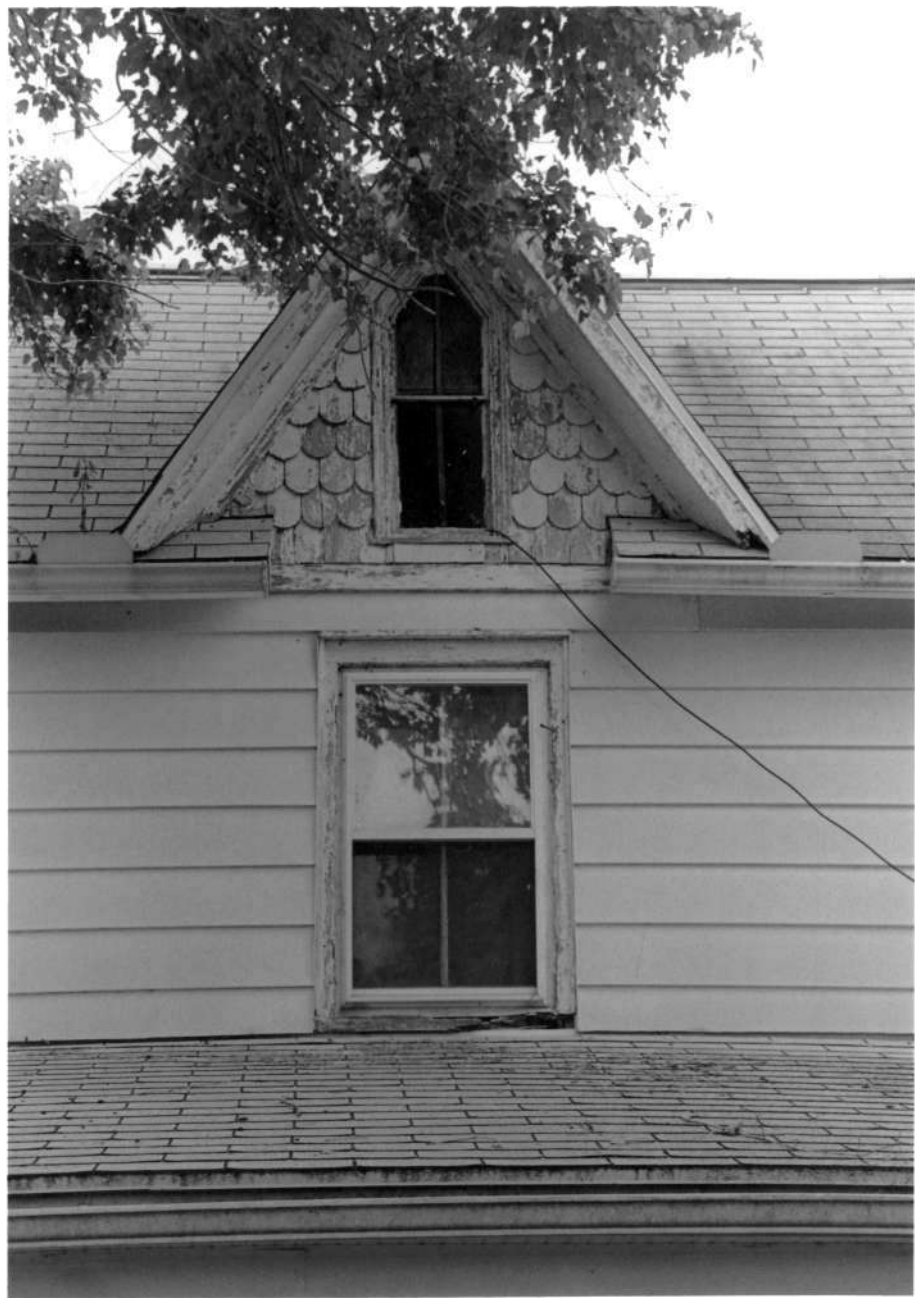
C. A. MASEK

9/08

MD SHPO

REAR (WEST) FACADE

3 OF 6



CAR-255

MORRIS HOUSE

RIDGELY VIC., CAROLINE CO.

CHERRY LANE

TUCKAHOE S.P.

C. A. MASEK

9/08

MD SHPO

DETAIL - EAST FACADE WINDOW

4 OF 6





CAR-255

MORRIS HOUSE

RIDGELY VIC., CAROLINE CO.

CHERRY LANE

TUCKAHOE S.P.

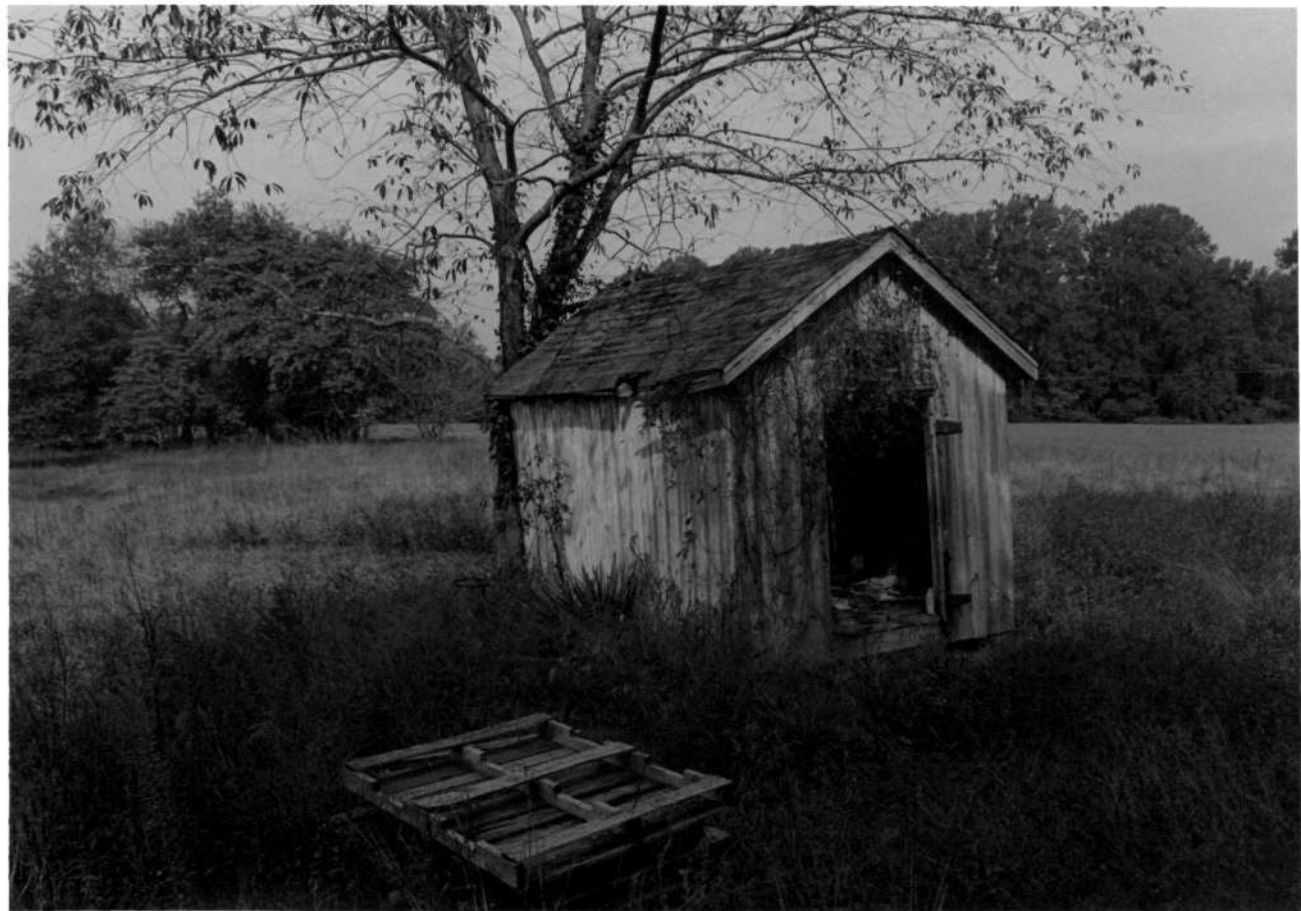
C. A. MASEK

9/08

MD SHPO

INTERIOR-PARLOR-WEST WALL

5 OF 6



CAR-255

MORRIS HOUSE

RIDGELY VIC, CAROLINE CO.

CHERRY LANE

TUCKAHOE S.P.

C. A. MASEK

9/08

MD SHPO

SHED WEST OF HOUSE - 20TH C.

6 OF 6

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAR-255

DNR 81-85

MAGI # 0602553604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Morris Farm House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Cherry Lane

CITY, TOWN

Tuckahoe State Park — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Ridgely, Md

COUNTY

Caroline

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☒ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Maryland State Dept. of Natural Resources Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Tawes State Office Building

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md.**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE  
Md.**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



**7 DESCRIPTION**CAR-~~25~~ 255**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Morris Farmhouse, located on the west side of Cherry Lane within Tuckahoe State Park is a two storey, three bay structure with a lower two storey rear addition. The entire house has been aluminum-sided thus obscuring window and doorway surrounds and clapboard type. Both sections rest on brick foundations.

The east facade of the main block is distinguished by a one-storey screened porch with turned supports, brackets and pentels. A central doorway is flanked by double windows. 3/1 sash windows with 2/2 sash mark the three corresponding openings on the second storey. A lancet 2/2 sashed window surrounded by fishscale shingles punctuates the centrally pitched gable. The asbestos shingled roof is further defined by corbel capped brick interior chimneys at both gable ends.

The north and south facades carry identical fenestration: an assymetrically placed 3/1 window surmounted by a 2/1 sashed window. The fishscale shingles are repeated in the pediment area of the gables.

The two storey, two bay el projects from the two southernmost bays. The south facade is defined by two 2/1 sashed windows on the first storey and a centrally located 2/1 sashed window on the second storey. A shed roofed addition extends across the first storey of the north facade. A doorway in the east bay and a 2/1 sashed window in the west bay characterize this addition. A 2/1 sashed window is centrally located on the second storey of the north facade. Another entrance is found on the west facade. Above it is a 2/1 sashed window. An interior brick chimney rises from this gable end.

Various outbuildings are located to the west of the farmhouse.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morris dwelling is a typical late nineteenth/early twentieth century farm of the Eastern Shore. Despite the remodeled interior and the aluminum-sided exterior, the main house with its attendant outbuildings contributes to the rural character of the area.

Recommendations

The Morris Farm should continue as an income producing rental property of the Department of Natural Resources. The main house and the majority of the nearby outbuildings appear to be in good condition.

A great number of similar farms along Cherry Lane and Eveland Road have disappeared. The Morris complex should not become another casualty.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Bridget M. Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

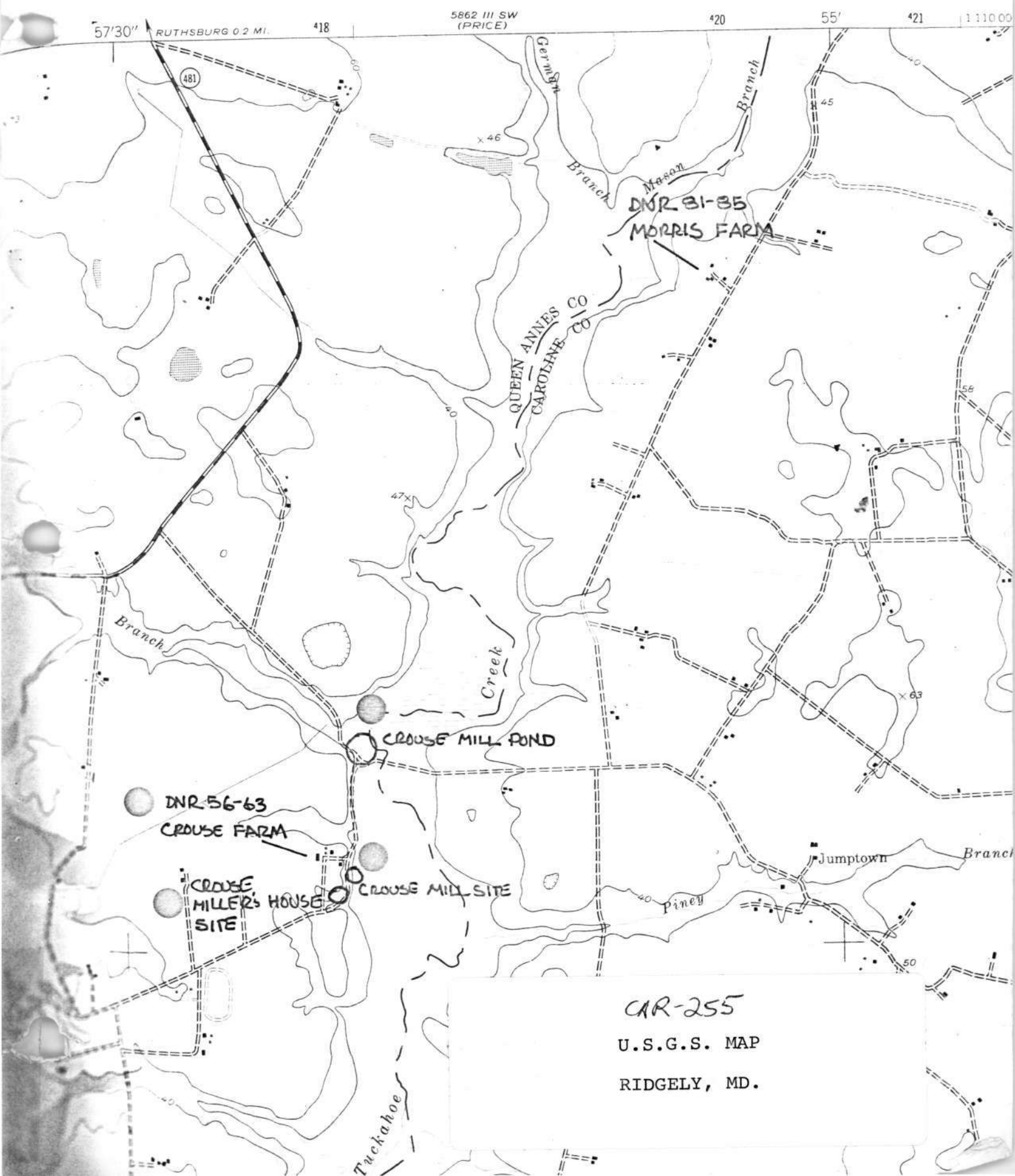
Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CAR-255







CAR-253  
DNR 81-85

MORRIS FARMHOUSE  
WEST SIDE OF CHERRY LANE  
RIDGELY, MARYLAND

TUCKAHOE STATE PARK  
EAST ELEVATION

5/79; BMD



DNR 81-85

MORRIS FARMHOUSE  
WEST SIDE OF CHERRY LANE  
RIDGELY, MARYLAND

Car. 255

TUCKLAHOE STATE PARK

Sect. 7

S.E. ELEVATION

5/79; BMD

Car. 255